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Articles to be inquired of

within the dioceſſe and iuriſdiction of Peterborough, at the viſitatiõ of the Reuerend Father in God, THOMAS *by the permiſſion of God, Lord Biſhop of Peterborough, this* preſent yeare 1611. And preſentment to be made thereof by the Church-wardens and Side-men for that purpoſe lawfully appointed, in Viſitations, Synods or elſewhere within the iuriſdiction aforeſaid, or at any other time and place when occaſions ſhall be offered, with particular anſwere to euery Article.

1611.

At London
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The tenour of the Oth, miniſtred to the *Churchwardens and Swornemen.*

YOu ſhall ſweare, that all fauor, hatred, malice, hope of reward or gaine, feare of diſpleaſure, and all other vnlawfull affection ſet aſide, you ſhall vpon due conſideration of theſe articles, giuen you in charge, preſent euery ſuch perſon of, or within your pariſh, as hath committed any offence or fault, or made any default mentioned in any of theſe articles, or which are vehemently ſuſpected or defamed of any ſuch offence or default, wherein you ſhall deale vprightly, neither of malice preſenting any contrary to truth, nor corruptly ſparing to preſent any, or to conceale the truth, hauing in this action God before your eies, with an earneſt zeale to maintaine the truth, and to ſuppreſſe vice, ſo helpe you God in Chriſt Ieſus, and by the contents of this booke.

ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIRED OF WITHIN THE DIOCESSE OF PETERBOROVGH,

Anno Dom. 1611.

Articles concerning the Church.

IN primis, whether all such ornaments of the Church be retained and be in vse, as was in this Church of England by authority of Parliament, in the second yeere of the reigne of King Edward the sixth, but such as haue beene since, otherwise prouided for by authority? And whether your Church or Chancell with your parsonage and vicarage houses be in good repaire, your Church-yard well fenced and cleane kept.

2 Whether you haue a conuenient Pulpit well placed within your Church; A comely decent Table on a frame for the holy Communion, with a faire linnen cloth to lay vpon the same, and some couering of silke, buckeram or such like, for the clean keeping thereof. A faire and comely Communion cup and coner of siluer for the same; and a decent large surplice with sleeues.

3 Whether haue you in your parish Church or Chapel, one booke of the whole Bible in the largest volume in English. A Communion booke; the two tombes of homilies, the Paraphrases of Erasmus in English, master Iewels Apologie; The table of the ten Commandements. The table of the degrees of mariage set vp in some conuenient place in the Church. And the Canons lately set forth, and all other bookes appointed to be had by lawfull authority.

4 Whether you haue a Register booke to write in all weddings, christenings and burials; and whether the same be diligently noted therein: And whether for the safe keeping of the same you haue a sure Cofer with three lockes and three keyes.

5 Whether you haue a strong Cheft for the poore, well and conueniently placed with a locke and three keies to the same. And whether your Minister do moue and exhort the people (especially when men make their Testaments) to bestow to the said Cheft their almes, and charitable deuotion vpon their neighbors.

Articles concerning the Clergie.

ITem, whether your parson, vicar or curat bee resident, and doth continually abide vpon his cure? if not, how long is he absent in the yeere, and where maketh he his abode.

2 Whether your parson, vicar or curat being a preacher allowed, doth preach euery Sonday. And if he be no preacher allowed, whether doth hee procure to bee preached sermons by such as are lawfully licensed, according as is prescribed

vnto him by the Canons, and whether he doe, or haue suffered any to preach, and erpound the holy Scriptures in your Church or Chapell, but such as are lawfully licensed thereunto in writing.

3 Whether your Curat that ministreth in your parish Church or Chapell, doth say morning and euening prayer in your Church or Chapell vpon Sondaies and holy dates, and at other times appointed by authority, and ranse a bell to be tolled thereto at conuenient time before he begin, that such as bee disposed may come to learne Gods word, and pray with him.

4 Whether your Parson or Vicar in his absence, doe leaue his cure to an honest, learned, and godly Curat. And whether they doe reade the Canons in the Church as by authority they are commanded.

5 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curat, doe vpon euery Sonday and holiday in the yeere instruct all the youth of the parish, for halfe an houre at the least before euening praier, in the ten Commandements, the articles of the beliefe, and in the Lords prayer, and diligently examine them, teaching the Catechisme set forth in the booke of common prayer.

6 Whether they doe also euery Sonday and holiday, in the reading of the said prayers, ministring of the Communion, christening of children, burying of the dead, or marrying, weare the surplice. And when your Parson, Vicar, or Curat hath omitted or neglected to weare the same at any time of reading publicke seruice or administration of the Sacraments, as is aforesaid.

7 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curat, do in reading seruice administring the Communion, christenings, burials, mariages and such like, duly obserue the order prescribed in the booke of common prayer, and the ceremonies therein contained; as the Crosse in Baptisme, the Ring in mariage, and such like.

8 Whether common prayer be vsed and said by your Parson, Vicar, or Curat, in your Church or Chapell distinctly, reuerently, and the Sacraments duely administred in such order, as is set forth by the lawes of this realme, and none other or otherwise, and at due and conuenient houres. And whether your Minister so turne himselfe and stand in such place of your Church or Chancell, as the people may best heare him. And whether vpon Wednesdaies and Fridaies (not being holidaies) the Letany, & other prayers appointed for the day be said accordingly.

9 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curat doe preach, declare, or speake any thing in deprauing of the booke of common prayer, or of any thing therein contained, or of any part thereof. And whether they doe not in their Sermons, and other exercises, pray for the Kings most excellent Maiestie, giuing him his vsuall title and stile: And also pray for our gratious Queene Anne, the noble Prince Henry, and the rest of the King and Queenes royall issue; and also for the Ministers of Gods holy word and Sacraments, according to the forme of a prayer contained in the 55. Canon.

10 Whether in the time of diuine seruice, and of euery part thereof all due reuerence be vsed, as namely, euery man shall be vncouered with his head in the Church or Chapell in the time of diuine seruice, except he haue some infirmity, in which case he is to weare a nightcap or coife. All maner of persons then present shall reuerently kneele vpon their knees, when the generall confession, Letanie, and other prayers be read, and shall stand vp at the saying of the beliefe, according to the rules in that behalfe prescribed in the booke of common prayer, and likewise when in time of diuine seruice, the Lord Iesus shall be mentioned, due and lowly reuerence be done by all persons present, as it hath been accustomed, according to the 18. Canon. And if any of your parish haue offended heerein; what are their names and surnames?

11 Whether your Parson, Vicar or Curat being vnmaried, keepeth in his house any defamed or suspected woman, or whether he be a hawker, hunter, carder, dicer, swearer, or vseth to resort to any Alehouse, Taernes, or to any suspected places, not beseeming his place and calling, or doe giue any euill example of life, whereby the word of God, and the religion now receiued may be euill spoken of.

12 Whether your Curat or Minister be admitted to serue without examination and admission of the Ordinarie or his deputies in writing. And whether any doe preach in your Church or Chapell without lawfull licence from the lord Bishop of this diocesse.

13 Whether your Minister hath receiued into your Church or Chapell any excommunicate person, before hee brought vnto him a true certificat of his absolution and restoring to the Church.

14 Whether your Minister haue receiued any woman deliuered of child, begot in fornication, to her thanksgiuing in your Church, before she hath publikely reconciled her selfe in such order as by the officer in that behalfe hath been to her prescribed.

15 Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curat haue admitted to the holy Communion any open and notorious fornicator, adulterer, or euill liuer, by whom the congregation is offended, without due penance first done for the satisfying of the congregation, or any enuious or malitious persons out of charitie, before they haue openly reconciled themselues to the satisfying of the whole congregation, and who they be that haue thus intruded themselues.

16 Whether your Minister haue admitted any excommunicate person, to answere as Godfather or Godmother at the christening of a child, or any that haue not before receiued the holy Communion, and is not able to recite the Lords prayer, the ten Commandements, and the articles of beliefe, and to answere to the same being required.

Articles concerning the Laitie.

1 WHether any in your parish haue by open speeches or otherwise molested or interrupted your Minister in time of diuine prayer, administration of the Sacraments, preaching, or in time of catechising, or at any other time vsed any reuiling or vnseemely speeches against him, or haue aided, encouraged, or set on any so to doe, and what be their names?

2 Whether any person doe, neglecting their owne parish Church, resort to any other parish Church in time of common prayer or preaching. And whether the Church wardens (after admonition giuen them) denounce them to the Ordinary, and whether the forfeit of 12. pence for euery such offence be leuied by the Church wardens of the parish where such offence shall be done, to the vse of the poore of the same parish, out of the goods, lands and tenements of such offenders by way of distresse.

3 Whether Inholders, or Alehouse keepers, doe vse to sell any meate or drinke in time of common prayer, preaching or reading of the Homilies.

4 Whether there be any in your parish, which doe not keepe holy the Sabbath day, as is commanded and appointed vnto them, & that vse any passtime or gaming abrode, or in their houses, or take in hand any worke or labour vpon the Sabbath, day or holiday (except on the holydaynot being the Sabbath day, in haruest time after dinner in a time of necessity) or any that sit in the streets, Alehouse, Taern, or Churchyard in time of diuine prayers, preaching, or reading of the Homilies and what be their names?

5 Whether there be any in your parish that be suspected to be reconciled to the Pope his Religion, and Walking Priests, Reconcilers, Iesuites, Seminaries, or other which haue receiued authority from the Romish Church, and what bee their names.

6 Whether you know any Priests, or recusants within your parish that goe about to depraue the religion now established, any that maintaine heresies, vse inchantments, witchcrafts, soceries or such like, and what be their names.

7 Whether all in your parish, which be of sufficient yeres and discretion, doe receiue the holy Communion kneeling, thrice in the yeare at the least, whereof Easter to be one. And who haue not done so.

8 Whether there be any in your parish, that haue maried within the degrees forbidden, any which being diuorced, doe cohabite or keepe company together; any being maried, that haue left their wiues: any man that hath two wiues, any woman that hath two husbands, any which haue made priuate contracts without witnesses, any that deferre the solemnization of Matrimonie lawfully contracted, any that doe hinder the same, any that haue contracted themselues without consent of their parents, Tutors or Gouernours, or any which haue been maried, or contracted matrimonie betweene themselues, without solemne publishing of the banes: and who they be.

9 Whether doe any Physitions or Chirurgions practise Physicke or surgerie within your parish, that is not thereunto licenced by the Lord Bishop of this diocesse.

10 Whether any of your Church-wardens doe denie or delay to giue vp an account of the Church goods that they haue had in their hands, or detaine any of the Church-goods, or common stocke, and whether the Clerke bee diligent to the Minister, and keepeth all bookes and other things belonging to the Church in good order, and is a sufficient man to reade distinctly, and answere as is appointed him.

11 Whether there be any vsurers in your parish, that directly, or indirectly do take any vsurie for their money, contrary to the law.

12 Whether any appointed Executor in the last will of any man deceased, do presume to deale with the goods of the deceased, before the will be proued, or any that presume to administer vpon the goods of any man deceased, before the administration be committed vnto him, or hinderers of the performance of those wils: any forgers or changers of wils, or any Executor that hath not performed the testators will, especially in not paying legacies giuen to good and godly vses.

13 Whether any person or persons, body politicke, or corporate, keepe or maintaine any schoolemaster, which shall not repaire to Church, or be allowed by the Bishop, or Ordinarie of the diocesse, where such schoolemasters shall bee so kept, and whether the said schoolemaster be a learned, honest, religious and sober man, and lawfully licenced so to teach schoole in your parish.

14 Whether any in your parish haue been married in any priuate house or chamber, or other secret place, or at any vnlawful time or place, who maried them, who were the parties that were so maried, and who were present at the mariage.

15 Whether the preambulation of the circuit of your parish once in the yeare at the time accustomed, be retained and vsed; and whether at their returne to the Church they make their common prayers.

16 Whether you know or haue heard by common fame, of any that liue viciously in fornication, adulterie, incest, drunkennesse or vncleannesse: any common swearers, Bauds, Ribaulds, harborers, or mainteiners or receiuers of any such lewd persons, or any which carrie, send away or conuey such parties before

they be punished, or beheamently suspected of any such faults.

17 Whether you know or haue heard by common fame, of any woman that hath bẽ got with child, or lined incontinently before she was maried, who hath not as yet satisfied the congregation, and what be their names.

18 Whether there be any which fight, chide or braule in Church or Churchyard, and what be their names.

19 Whether you know or haue heard by publike fame, of any other crime worthy to be presented, the reformation whereof appertaineth to the spirituall iurisdiction: and if you do, you shall as well present them that now come to your memorie, as those that shall hereafter come to your knowledge.

20 Finallie, that the Churchwardens once in halfe a yeere, that is to say, at the Feasts of the nativitie of our Lord, commonly called Christmas, and Saint Iohn Baptist, commonly called Midsommer, in their bils subscribed with their hands, declare to the Ordinarie, or to the next Officer vnder him, who they be that will not pay their penalties for not comming to Gods diuine seruice. And therewithall for the more speedie and due reformation of things amisse in this diocesse of Peterborough, and their owne ease at other times, they may then informe of all such offences as are repugnant to the Ecclesiasticall lawes of this Realme, that due reformation may be made for the same accordingly.

FINIS.